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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Summary of  
**Annual Reports**

of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the Years 1939 - 1943

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**Report**

of the Senior Health Inspector  
for the Years 1939 - 1943

(With an Appendix containing a record of Air Raids on  
the Kingswood District during the Winter of 1940-41)



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Mr. A. S. CORDY

Mr. G. WILLMOTT

Mr. S. R. WILLMOTT

## Public Health Staff

*Medical Officer of Health, who is Medical Officer of Health to the South Gloucestershire Combined (M.O.H.) Districts :*

JAMES MENZIES CORMACK, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Appointed 1st May, 1938)

*Senior Health Inspector, Housing Officer, Petroleum Inspector and Inspector under Factories Act :*

GEORGE EWART CURTIS, F.S.I.A., Cert. R.San.I., Cert. Meat Inspector

C.D. Lecturer, A.R.P.S. (Special), Falfield

(Appointed 18th September, 1933)

## *Additional Health Inspector :*

OSCAR BATT DOWNING, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B.

(Appointed 16th June, 1941)

## *Assistant (Pupil) Health Inspector :*

\*HERBERT JAMES BRYANT

## *Clerk and Typist :*

Mrs. S. E. STOKES

45th to 49th Reports of the Medical Officer of Health

7th to 11th Reports of the Senior Health Inspector

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\* On Active Service from 15th November, 1939



# Summary of Annual Reports of the

Medical Officer of Health for Kingswood Urban Area  
for the Five Years 1939 to 1943

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Kingswood Urban District Council*

GENTLEMEN,

It is with pleasure that I submit a summary of my Annual Reports on the work of the Public Health Services for the years 1939-43. It represents the Forty-fifth to Forty-ninth Reports in the series presented to the Council since the formation of the Urban District in 1894, and is submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health and the Registrar-General.

## I.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

### (a) General Statistics

During the quinquennial period under review the population has fluctuated slightly between 16,000 and 17,000, this being due to movements of population by enlistment in the Armed Forces and migration to other districts on wartime work. The latest Registrar-General's estimated figure of population of 16,610 (mid-1943), although showing a slight decrease compared with the three preceding years, shows an increase of 950 over the mid-1938 population.

	YEAR				
	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Area of District .. acres	1,530	1,530	1,530	1,530	1,530
Population (Registrar General's estimate, mid-year) .. .. .	16,320	16,980	16,930	16,830	16,610
Elevation above sea level (Hopewell Hill) feet	373	373	373	373	373
Number of Inhabited houses, December (Rate Books) .. ..	4,839	4,850	4,850	4,825	4,825
Estimated number of void houses (December each year) .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Rateable Value .. ..	£69,792	£70,892	£71,096	£72,161	£73,910
Sum represented by penny rate .. .. .	£253	£267	£269	£272	£281

**(b) Social Conditions**

Reference to the appropriate Government Department has confirmed the general impression that the extent of unemployment throughout the district has been negligible. The boot and shoe industry has been working at full pressure since the war and very little, if any, unemployment was recorded in this trade. The engineering industry has also given continuous employment to a considerable number of people.

**(c) Extracts from Vital Statistics***Year 1939*

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births..	Legitimate	262	126	136	.. Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, mid-1939, 16.3.
	Illegitimate	6	2	4	
Stillbirths ..	Legitimate	11	3	8	.. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births), 40.7
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Deaths ..	..	173	93	80	.. Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population, 9.4.
Death Rate England and Wales, 12.1.					

*Year 1940*

Live Births..	Legitimate	312	154	158	.. Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, mid-1940, 18.8.
	Illegitimate	8	3	5	
Stillbirths ..	Legitimate	9	4	5	.. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births), 30.3.
	Illegitimate	1	—	1	
Deaths ..	..	216	115	101	.. Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population, 12.7.

*Year 1941*

Live Births..	Legitimate	275	147	128	.. Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, mid-1941, 16.95.
	Illegitimate	12	6	6	
Stillbirths ..	Legitimate	8	5	3	.. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births), 27.0.
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Deaths ..	..	173	69	104	.. Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population, 10.2.

*Year 1942*

Live Births..	Legitimate	298	154	144	.. Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, mid-1942, 18.1.
	Illegitimate	7	3	4	
Stillbirths ..	Legitimate	16	10	6	.. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births), 52.8.
	Illegitimate	1	1	—	
Deaths ..	..	181	88	93	.. Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population, 10.8.



## Year 1943

LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	333	171	162	..	Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, mid-1943, 20.8.
	Illegitimate	14	12	2		
STILLBIRTHS	Legitimate	8	5	3	..	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births), 25.0.
	Illegitimate	1	—	1		
DEATHS	..	..	215	108	107	.. Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population, 12.9.

	YEAR				
	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Deaths from Puerperal Causes ..	0	1	0	0	1
Deaths of Infants (under 1 year) ..	9	15	13	11	12
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ..	22	15	27	26	36
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ..	0	0	0	0	3
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .. .. .	1	2	1	0	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) .. .. .	0	0	1	0	1

There has been comparatively little variation in the birth rate, the figures varying from 16.3 in 1939 to 20.8 in 1943. This last figure compares favourably with the birth rate of 20.0 in 1938.

The number of deaths has fluctuated, but an analysis of the figures shows that the death rates also compare favourably with those for the general mortality rate for England and Wales.

TABLE SHOWING PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH  
YEAR 1939

[illegible]

TABLE SHOWING PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH  
YEAR 1940

Cause of Death	Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65-75 yrs.	75 & over	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .. ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Diphtheria .. ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .. ..	—	—	—	4	3	3	—	—	10
Other forms of tuberculosis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease .. ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Influenza .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Measles .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infectious Encephalitis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (males only) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Cancer of Uterus .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
Cancer of Breast .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cancer of all other sites .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	7
Diabetes .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	4
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	5	7	7	19
Heart Disease .. ..	1	—	1	—	3	8	13	33	59
Other diseases of circulatory system .. ..	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	4
Bronchitis .. ..	2	—	—	—	1	2	7	7	19
Pneumonia .. ..	1	1	—	—	3	5	2	2	14
Other respiratory diseases .. ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Ulceration of Stomach or Duodenum .. ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases .. ..	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	7
Nephritis .. ..	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis .. ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Other maternal causes .. ..	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	4
Premature Birth .. ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease .. ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Suicide .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Road traffic accidents .. ..	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	4
Other violent causes .. ..	—	—	—	2	3	3	—	—	8
All other causes .. ..	—	3	2	—	4	1	4	10	24

TABLE SHOWING PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH  
YEAR 1941

Cause of Death	Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65-75 yrs.	75 & over	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid									
Fevers .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .. ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respira- tory System .. .. .	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	6
Other forms of tubercu- losis .. .. .	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	4
Syphilitic Disease .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infectious Encephalitis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (males only) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Uterus .. .. .	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	4
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	1	8
Cancer of Breast .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	4
Cancer of all other sites	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	4	11
Diabetes .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	3
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	4	7	4	15
Heart Disease .. .. .	—	—	—	—	2	5	23	13	43
Other diseases of circula- tory system .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	6
Bronchitis .. .. .	—	1	—	—	2	5	1	—	9
Pneumonia .. .. .	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	3	8
Other respiratory diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ulceration of Stomach or Duodenum .. .. .	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Appendicitis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	5
Nephritis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Puerperal and Post- Abortive Sepsis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other maternal causes..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth .. .. .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malforma- tions, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Suicide .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Road traffic accidents ..	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Other violent causes ..	—	—	—	1	5	3	1	4	14
All other causes .. ..	1	—	—	—	1	5	3	3	13

TABLE SHOWING PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH  
YEAR 1943

Cause of Death	Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65-75 yrs.	75 & over	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respira- tory System .. ..	—	—	—	3	4	4	—	—	11
Other forms of tubercu- losis .. .. .	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Syphilitic Disease .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza .. .. .	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Measles .. .. .	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infectious Encephalitis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (males only) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Cancer of Uterus .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	4	11
Cancer of Breast .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Cancer of all other sites	—	—	1	—	—	4	6	8	19
Diabetes .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions .. .. .	—	—	—	—	3	1	11	7	22
Heart Disease .. .. .	—	1	—	2	—	12	18	38	71
Other diseases of circula- tory system .. ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	4
Bronchitis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	6	12
Pneumonia .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	6	10
Other respiratory diseases	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Ulceration of Stomach or Duodenum .. .. .	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Appendicitis .. .. .	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Other digestive diseases	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	4
Nephritis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	4
Puerperal and Post- Abortive Sepsis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Premature Birth .. ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Congenital Malforma- tions, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Suicide .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Road traffic accidents ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other violent causes ..	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	4
All other causes .. ..	—	1	—	1	1	2	5	2	12

## II.—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### (a) Public Health Staff

The Medical Officer of Health continues as Medical Officer of Health to the South Gloucestershire Combined Districts. A list of the Public Health Staff is inserted in the beginning of this Report. Mr. H. J. Bryant, who was a Pupil Inspector at the time of enlistment, is on active service in the Sanitary Section of the R.A.M.C.

### (b) Laboratory Facilities

There has been no change in the arrangements for examination of swabs, sputa, etc., carried out by the Department of Preventive Medicine, Bristol University. The Agricultural Advisory Department at the University carried out the bacteriological examination of milk samples, and details will be found in the Report of the Senior Health Inspector.

### (c) Ambulance Facilities

The Bristol St. John Ambulances and City Marine Corps continue to serve this District for ambulance facilities, and the service afforded is quite adequate for the needs of the area. For infectious cases Mangotsfield Hospital ambulance is used. The Civil Defence Ambulances attached to Area 11 have also been used for limited public health services.

### (d) Nursing in the Home

The Kingswood and District Nursing Association has kindly supplied a report on its activities during the past five years, and a summary of visits made are set out herewith. Shortage of staff has made the maintenance of the work a more difficult problem than under peace-time conditions.

During the air raid of the 24th November, 1940, the Nurses Home suffered badly from blitz damage, but fortunately none of the staff was seriously injured. The Nurses carried on despite this handicap and rendered invaluable service in the treatment of air-raid casualties.

	YEAR				
	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
New nursing cases attended	546	539	475	470	517
Total number of visits ..	21,388	21,736	21,927	20,894	21,113



	1939		1940		1941		1942		1943	
	Cases	Visits	Cases	Visits	Cases	Visits	Cases	Visits	Cases	Visits
Midwifery and Maternity Cases ..	164	3,524	166	3,518	161	3,283	177	3,665	184	3,802
General Cases .. ..	379	16,962	307	17,360	314	17,841	294	16,259	333	15,403
Infant Welfare Centre Visits ..	—	46	—	42	—	45	—	41	—	43
Ante-Natal (Home) Visits ..	—	572	—	399	—	465	—	453	—	405
Ante-Natal (Clinic) Visits ..	—	72	—	71	—	73	—	74	—	80
Post-Natal Visits .. ..	—	—	—	8	—	10	—	—	—	—
Casual Visits .. ..	—	175	—	388	—	196	—	375	—	360
Eye Hospital Visits .. ..	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Clinic) Visits ..	—	6	—	—	—	4	—	5	—	3
Minor Ailments Clinic (Candidates) Visits .. ..	—	12	—	—	—	10	—	8	—	3
Nights on Duty (Midwives) ..	—	106	—	—	—	105	—	116	—	139

(e) **Clinics and Treatment Centres**

The County Council's Out-Station at Soundwell Road has been put to full use in dealing with tuberculous patients and treatment of minor ailments, dental defects, orthopaedic cases, etc. During the war the building has been in use as a full-time First Aid Party Depot.

The County Council has provided a Day Nursery at Enmore House, Kingswood, where toddlers are looked after during the daytime. This enables mothers to carry on with essential war work. Since opening on the 24th February, 1943, an average number of thirty children is received daily at the Nursery.

The activities of the Kingswood Infant Welfare Association, a voluntary local organisation, have been somewhat curtailed, but in spite of the fact that many of the helpers have been engaged on war work, the Centre managed to carry on. On the outbreak of hostilities, mothers were not encouraged to the Centre unless they needed advice. This was a wise precaution as no air-raid shelter was available.

The Centre has kindly supplied the following Report: The work of the Kingswood Child Welfare Clinic has been carried on as far as possible on peace-time lines. The mothers have brought their children and have had them weighed and have obtained any advice they needed from the Doctor, but the social side of the Clinic has more or less ceased to function. We are still able to provide foods at cheap rates, and the mothers get their cups of tea. Owing to transport difficulties we have had very few lecturers.

	YEAR				
	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Number of attendances by mothers .. ..	2,979	2,412	1,853	2,014	2,199
Number of attendances by children .. ..	3,227	2,515	1,903	2,063	2,244

(f) **Hospitals, Public and Voluntary**

1. *Infectious Diseases.* No further progress has been made during the past five years with the County Scheme for treatment of infectious diseases.

Arrangements for the use of Mangotsfield Hospital have remained in operation, but it is worthy of note that due to reduction of incidence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, there has been less call on the services of the Hospital. A retaining fee of £140 per annum is paid to the Joint Hospital Committee.



The following is a record of admissions during the past five years, together with cost of maintenance :

Year	Hospital	No. of patients	Cost (Financial year ended 31st March)
1939	Mangotsfield Isolation Hospital	16	£  239
	Ham Green Hospital ..	3	
	—	—	
	—	19	
1940	Mangotsfield Isolation Hospital	16	185
	Ham Green Hospital ..	1	
	—	—	
	—	17	
1941	Mangotsfield Isolation Hospital	11	341
	Ham Green Hospital ..	4	
	Bath Isolation Hospital ..	3	
	—	—	
1942	Mangotsfield Isolation Hospital	14	263
	Ham Green Hospital ..	4	
	—	—	
	—	18	
1943	Mangotsfield Isolation Hospital	17	302
	Ham Green Hospital ..	3	
	—	—	
	—	20	

2. *Small-pox.* The Small-pox Hospital at Chipping Sodbury is available for treatment of Kingswood patients, and a retaining fee of £15 per annum is paid. The Hospital was not used by Kingswood during these years.

3. *Tuberculosis.* Institutional treatment for cases of tuberculosis is available at Stonehouse Sanatorium ; Over Hospital, Gloucester ; and for surgical cases, the Bristol Hospitals.

4. *General Hospitals.* The following General Hospitals are used by the inhabitants of the Kingswood Urban District : Bristol General Hospital, Bristol Royal Infirmary, Bristol

Hospital for Women and Children, Bristol Eye Hospital, Bristol Eye Dispensary, Orthopaedic Hospital (Bristol), Maternity Hospital (Bristol), and Cossham Hospital (Kingswood).

Following the introduction of measures to combat scabies, it became necessary to arrange for in-patient treatment of certain types of cases, and the Chipping Sodbury Sick Bay was made available to Kingswood patients.

### III.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### (a) Water Supply

The West Gloucestershire Water Company have maintained a wholesome supply of water for their consumers. This has not been without some difficulty in view of the tremendous demands on the Company's resources by the needs of war industries.

The Company carry out regular sampling of water and the results are available for inspection at any time. During 1943 (a typical year), seventy-eight samples were taken, only two of which contained any trace of B.Coli. In no case was B.Coli present in samples taken from consumers' taps. The major portion of dwellings and buildings in the Kingswood area are supplied with water from the public supply, the total number of connections at the end of 1943 being 4,866.

The Secretary of the Water Company has kindly supplied the following figures relating to the rainfall during 1939-43 :

#### WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE WATER COMPANY Rainfall recorded at Hopewell Hill, Kingswood

Month	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	37 year average
January ..	4.98	2.39	3.23	3.24	5.33	3.16
February ..	1.68	2.74	2.95	0.27	1.91	2.27
March ..	1.52	2.54	3.28	2.00	1.26	2.19
April ..	2.95	2.34	1.16	1.02	1.08	2.05
May ..	1.00	2.60	1.64	4.30	2.43	2.19
June ..	2.08	0.67	1.61	0.45	1.55	2.03
July ..	4.54	6.52	1.83	2.47	1.53	2.97
August ..	2.48	0.14	4.13	4.99	4.06	2.98
September ..	0.80	1.35	0.69	1.88	2.66	2.44
October ..	2.37	3.46	2.09	4.35	2.65	3.50
November ..	6.70	8.59	2.19	1.51	2.38	3.09
December ..	2.06	1.55	2.45	3.13	1.61	3.58
TOTAL ..	33.16	34.89	27.25	29.61	28.45	32.45

Annual rainfall was above normal from February, 1939, to July, 1940, from July to September, 1941, and from December, 1942, to August, 1943. During the remainder of the period between January, 1939, and December, 1943, it was below normal.

An exceptional rainfall occurred on 2nd/3rd November, 1940, when 3.49 inches fell in two days : with two exceptions, this was the wettest month in 37 years.

A record drought occurred when no rain fell for 35 days from 16th February to 22nd March, 1943. The previous record was 34 days in 1908.

**(b) Drainage, Sewerage, Closet Accommodation, Public Cleansing, Sanitary Inspections, Smoke Abatement, etc.**

Details of work under these respective headings will be found in the Report of the Senior Health Inspector, which is appended.

#### IV.—HOUSING

It was inevitable that, with the suspension of housing activity under the Housing Acts, some deterioration of the conditions under which people live should take place. Following the Ministry of Health's Circular in 1939 there has been no activity in regard to clearance of unfit property, and action on repairs and improvements required has been limited to the Public Health Acts. It is fairly obvious, too, that the general social conditions have been adversely affected. Judging from the number of applications for housing accommodation it is certain that there will be a heavy demand for housing accommodation in the immediate post-war years, and how far the erection of dwellings on pre-war standard lines will fully meet the demand is a matter of conjecture. National attention has been focussed on the erection of temporary steel houses and the construction of more permanent "prefabricated" or factory-made houses. While not wishing to discuss the architectural features of these houses, it is, in my opinion, desirable that the erection of this type of dwelling should at least be considered in the light of the tremendous need which will arise. It is a truism that the Englishman's home is his castle, and the average family man would prefer to live within the four walls of his home, even if it did not possess permanent qualities, rather than live under another person's roof. I am sure that the Council, in considering the needs of the area, will give careful thought to this problem.

Technical details of action taken under the Housing Acts in months preceding the outbreak of the war will be found in the Senior Health Inspector's Report.

## V.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

It will be noted in the Report of the Senior Health Inspector that this branch of public health work has continued to receive every attention, notwithstanding the fact that routine meat inspection at time of slaughter ceased early in 1940.

In July, 1941, my attention was drawn to the condition of a certain manufactured product imported into this country. Bacteriological examinations of samples of this foodstuff were made and the Bacteriologist reported that, in his opinion, the material was insufficiently sterilised and organisms were present capable of producing toxins dangerous to human beings. On this report, all the supplies of this tinned food were confiscated. This occurrence, which is happily rare, demonstrates the need for constant vigilance by the Food Inspectors in ensuring that food consumed by the public is sound and wholesome.

No outbreak of food poisoning (except one suspected case) has been reported to me under Section 17 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, although there has been a considerable increase in the amount of tinned foodstuffs consumed during the war.

## VI.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

### (a) Diphtheria

Aggregate number of cases reported	..	52
Treated in hospital	.. ..	41
Total deaths	.. ..	3

The incidence of this disease showed a fluctuating decline in the period and compares very favourably with the period 1934-38, when a total of 136 cases was reported.

The percentage of children immunised in the Urban District on the 31st December, 1943, is estimated at about 54 per cent. under 5 years and 29 per cent. between the ages of 5 and 15 years. These percentages cannot be said to give any real degree of protection to the community and should be in the region of 80 per cent. in each group.

It is satisfactory to note, however, that the numbers under 5 years are the higher, and it is to be hoped that in the near future the numbers protected will increase materially.

The arrangements for immunisation of children are at present in the hands of the County Medical Officer of Health, and free treatment is available through the medium of Infant Welfare Centres and School Medical Services.

### (b) Enteric Fever

Eight cases reported, all treated in hospital; the outbreaks being sporadic and not related to any known epidemic. In three



cases the origin of the disease was ascertained, and in five other unrelated cases the source of infection was undetermined.

One of the cases of known origin was a male nurse who had been nursing cases of enteric fever at his work. Investigations into the remaining two revealed very interesting facts. No outstanding source of infection having been discovered, further inquiries into the health of a contact were made and it was found that this person, the grandfather of the first patient, was an active carrier. After receiving treatment in hospital, he was discharged, but remained an active carrier and was subject to constant supervision. The family had moved to this district several years previously and inquiries revealed the fact that the grandfather had suffered from enteric fever forty-four years previously. Presumably he had been a carrier since that time, as the Medical Officer of Health of the district was satisfied that this patient had been the source of other outbreaks.

**(c) Scarlet Fever**

One hundred and forty-five cases notified, 37 of which were removed to hospital. There were no deaths from this disease. The highest total for one year was in 1943, when 80 cases were reported. They were all of the mild type, only a few requiring hospital treatment.

**(d) Puerperal Pyrexia**

Two cases only were reported.

**(e) Ophthalmia Neonatorum**

Six cases notified.

**(f) Other Diseases**

Measles and whooping cough were made compulsorily notifiable under Regulations made in 1939, and details of cases notified since then may be seen in the tables. Measles was epidemic in form in the years 1941 and 1943.

**(g) Scabies**

The prevalence of this troublesome condition, due mainly to the aggregation of persons arising from war conditions, caused the Minister of Health to issue the Scabies Order 1941, empowering the Medical Officer of Health to require treatment of cases of scabies. In order to secure compliance with the Order, arrangements were made with the City of Bristol to treat cases arising in Kingswood at the Central Health Clinic at an agreed fixed charge, and this arrangement has worked very smoothly. In certain cases where complications (impetigo, etc.) arise, in-patient treatment may be necessary, and the Chipping Sodbury Sick Bay is available for cases of this nature.

TABLE SHOWING INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE  
IN WARDS

Year 1939

Disease	North	South	East	West	Mount Hill
Diphtheria .. ..	5	3	1	5	1
Scarlet Fever .. ..	4	2	3	4	—
Enteric Fever .. ..	2	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .. ..	6	3	4	1	—
Erysipelas .. ..	1	1	—	2	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	2	—
Measles .. ..	—	—	—	—	1

Year 1940

Disease	North	South	East	West	Mount Hill
Diphtheria .. ..	3	2	1	4	2
Scarlet Fever .. ..	8	4	2	5	—
Enteric Fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia .. ..	2	4	1	4	—
Erysipelas .. ..	—	2	—	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	1	—	1	1	2
Measles .. ..	6	10	8	2	3
Whooping Cough ..	—	1	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—	—	—

Year 1941

Disease	North	South	East	West	Mount Hill
Pneumonia .. ..	—	4	2	2	1
Diphtheria .. ..	2	—	—	6	1
Scarlet Fever .. ..	3	4	1	6	1
Enteric Fever .. ..	—	2	—	2	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	1	—	—	1	—
Measles .. ..	35	23	46	29	10
Whooping Cough ..	7	7	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—

*Year 1942*

Disease	North	South	East	West	Mount Hill
Diphtheria .. ..	2	5	—	2	3
Scarlet Fever .. ..	6	1	2	8	1
Enteric Fever .. ..	1	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .. ..	1	—	—	4	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	1
Measles .. .. .	—	—	—	1	1
Whooping Cough .. ..	1	18	—	5	6
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia .. .. .	1	—	—	2	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	1	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	1	—

*Year 1943*

Disease	North	South	East	West	Mount Hill
Diphtheria .. ..	1	1	—	1	1
Scarlet Fever .. ..	6	20	9	20	25
Pneumonia .. ..	1	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas .. ..	—	—	—	1	—
Measles .. .. .	80	172	58	103	52
Whooping Cough .. ..	9	9	—	9	5

Year 1939

	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & up	Total Cases	Cases Ad- mitted to Hos- pital	Total Deaths
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	1	5	3	1	—	1	—	—	13	3	—
Scarlet Fever..	—	—	—	—	1	8	2	1	1	1	1	—	15	11	1
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Measles ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (includ- ing Para-Typhoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia and Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	4	—	3	1	14	6	2
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	2	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	—	1	—	2	2	16	6	7	6	2	4	5	51	26	3



Year 1940

	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & up	Total Cases	Cases Ad- mitted to Hos- pital	Total Deaths
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	—	1	3	—	1	6	4	—	1	—	—	—	19	6	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	12	9	1
Measles ..	1	1	3	2	3	12	3	1	2	1	—	—	29	—	—
Ophthalmia															
Neonatorum ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Enteric Fever (includ- ing Para-Typhoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Puerperal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia ..	1	1	1	—	—	4	—	1	1	—	—	2	11	5	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	3	—	1
Encephalitis													5	4	
Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal															
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	2	—
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	5	3	8	2	5	27	11	8	9	4	1	3	86	29	2

Year 1941

	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & up	Total Cases	Cases Ad- mitted to Hos- pital	Total Deaths
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever..	—	1	—	—	1	5	2	5	—	1	—	—	15	8	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	1	—	—	—	—	9	5	—
Measles ..	3	4	19	15	18	82	1	—	—	1	—	—	143	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	3	3	1	2	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—
Ophthalmia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Enteric Fever (includ- ing Para-Typhoid) ..	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	4	4	—
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	2	—	1	1	1	9	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	2	—
Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	7	8	22	18	23	94	9	9	1	5	4	2	202	20	—

Year 1942

	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & up	Total Cases	Cases Ad- mitted to Hos- pital	Total Deaths
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever...	—	—	—	1	—	13	1	1	1	1	—	—	18	5	—
Diphtheria ..	—	1	—	1	1	2	1	4	2	—	—	—	12	12	—
Measles ..	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	1	5	4	6	1	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	—	—
Ophthalmia															
Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (includ- ing Para-Typhoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Puerperal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	5	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Encephalitis															
Lethargia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1
Polio-myelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal															
Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
TOTALS ..	1	6	4	9	2	31	2	6	7	2	4	1	75	22	1

Year 1943

	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and up	Total Cases	Cases Ad- mitted to Hos- pital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever..	—	1	3	7	6	46	9	2	5	1	—	—	80	15	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	4	4	1
Measles ..	12	19	50	46	49	179	3	2	4	—	—	—	364	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	3	2	6	4	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ..	18	22	59	57	59	233	13	4	11	2	1	—	479	19	1

## VII.—TUBERCULOSIS

In order to help men and women who need treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis, but for whom treatment will mean an interruption of earnings or other income, the Government make special allowances. The object of the allowances is to enable necessary treatment to be undertaken without financial anxiety about the support of the family or the upkeep of the home.

These allowances will be paid by the Local Authority (County or County Borough Council) that is responsible for providing treatment for tuberculosis. They will be paid while the patient is undergoing treatment, provided that he follows a course of treatment advised by the Tuberculosis Officer of the Local Authority. This treatment may be in-patient treatment in a sanatorium or dispensary treatment while living at home, whichever the Tuberculosis Officer considers to be necessary on medical grounds.

There are three kinds of payments :

- (i) *Maintenance Allowances* based on a standard scale and without any test of means.
- (ii) *Discretionary Allowances*, on proof of need, towards meeting standing charges—such as high rent or rates, hire-purchase instalments, insurance premiums and school fees—in cases where the patient would be unable to meet these liabilities.
- (iii) *Special Payments* to meet certain special circumstances.

The Tuberculosis Officer will give any explanation that is needed and will advise on how to claim these allowances.

The following tables show sex, ages and occupations of new cases and of deaths during the year :

TABLES SHOWING NEW CASES AND DEATHS  
(TUBERCULOSIS) IN AGE GROUPS, ETC.

Year 1939

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
1-5 years ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-15 „ ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25 „ ..	1	6	—	1	1	3	—	—
25-35 „ ..	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
35-45 „ ..	5	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
45-55 „ ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65 „ ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	9	9	1	3	5	3	1	—

## Year 1940

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-15 „ ..	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
15-25 „ ..	—	1	1	—	1	2	—	—
25-35 „ ..	1	2	1	—	2	1	—	—
35-45 „ ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 „ ..	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	—
55-65 „ ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	2	5	5	1	5	5	—	—

## Year 1941

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1-5 years ..	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—
5-15 „ ..	—	—	4	—	—	—	1	—
15-25 „ ..	6	4	2	1	—	1	—	—
25-35 „ ..	5	2	1	1	1	—	2	—
35-45 „ ..	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45-55 „ ..	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55-65 „ ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards ..	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ..	13	7	8	6	3	3	4	—

## Year 1942

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years ..	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
5-15 " ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15-25 " ..	4	1	1	1	2	1	—	—
25-35 " ..	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
35-45 " ..	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45-55 " ..	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55-65 " ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 upwards ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS ..	14	5	4	2	7	1	1	1

## Year 1943

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5-15 " ..	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15-25 " ..	—	4	—	—	1	2	—	1
25-35 " ..	5	1	—	—	1	2	—	—
35-45 " ..	4	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
45-55 " ..	4	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
55-65 " ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	13	6	1	1	5	6	1	1



Year 1939

NEW CASES				DEATHS			
RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
32 years Grocery Assistant	14 years Scholar	18 months Infant (Meninges)	24 years Domestic (Neck Glands)	42 years Tram Driver	24 years Housewife	18 months Infant (Meninges)	—
28 years Brush Worker	16 years Laundry Clerk		15 months Infant (Meninges)	32 years Grocery Assistant	17 years Nil		
16 years Factory Hand	19 years Housewife		2 years Infant (Cervical Glands)	20 years Aero Worker	16 years Laundry Clerk		
37 years Boot Operative	17 years Nil			38 years Pensioned Soldier			
40 years Bus Washer	24 years Housewife			38 years Bombardier			
36 years Warehouse- man	28 years Housewife						
36 years Labourer	20 years Printer's Assistant						
42 years Tram Driver	11 years Scholar						
33 years Labourer (9)	(9)	(4)	(3)	(5)	(3)	(4)	—



Year 1940

NEW CASES				DEATHS			
RESPIRATORY		Non-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		Non-RESPIRATORY	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
8 years Scholar	26 years Drapery Assistant	17½ years Printer (Neck Glands)	3½ years Infant (Neck Glands)	51 years Sign Writer	19 years Housewife	—	—
32 years Bus Driver	38 years Housewife	6 years Scholar (Cervical Glands)		23 years Window Cleaner	20 years Housewife		
	34 years Domestic	34 years Chocolate Factory Worker (Larynx and Tongue)		30 years Electrical Engineer	29 years Housewife		
	8 years Scholar			45 years Labourer	27 years Housewife		
	22 years Housewife	49 years Engineer Chest Abscess)		19 years Welder	46 years Housewife		
(2)	(5)	8 years Scholar (Glands)	(1)	(5)	(5)	—	—

Year 1941

NEW CASES				DEATHS			
RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
17 years Labourer	20 years Cashier	15 years Boot Operative (Meninges)	20 years Corset Factory (Neck Glands)	39 years Labourer	66 years Housewife	34 years Chocolate Factory (Larynx and Tongue)	—
22 years Aircraft	19 years Laundry Worker	6 years Scholar (Cervical Glands)	3 months Infant (Glands)	35 years Aircraft	27 years Spinster (No occupa- tion)	15 years Boot Factory (Meninges)	
19 years Wax Paper Factory	24 years Housewife	10 years Scholar (Cervical Glands)	32 years Housewife (Neck Glands)	42 years Engineer	50 years School Teacher	3 years Infant (Right Hip)	
19 years Boot Clicker	26 years Housewife	5 years Scholar (Cervical Glands)	3 years Infant (Elbow Joint)			28 years Labourer (Meninges)	
26 years —	28 years Housewife	3 years Infant (Right Hip)	78 years Housewife (Knee)	(3)	(3)	(4)	—
30 years Aircraft	50 years Domestic	19 years Boot Clicker (Left Hip)	6 years Scholar (Cervical Glands)				
42 years Engineer	20 years Clerk	28 years Labourer (Meninges)	9 years Scholar (Neck Glands)				
28 years Aircraft							
28 years Mineral Water Factory							
28 years Boot Operative							
22 years —	(7)	(8)	(6)				
(13)							

NEW CASES				DEATHS			
RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
48 years Aircraft	38 years Boxmaker	1 year Infant (Neck Glands)	18 years Clerk (Neck Glands)	17 years Labourer	24 years Housewife	1 year Infant (Meninges)	78 years Housewife (Knee Joint)
29 years Policeman	31 years Housewife			38 years Boot Finisher			
30 years Ex-Army		1 year Infant (Meninges)	6 years Scholar (Glands)	46 years Labourer			
46 years Factory Hand	27 years Housewife	29 years Boot Clicker (Skin)		55 years Licensed Victualler			
38 years Ex-Army	35 years Housewife	20 years Aircraft (Left Hip)		60 years Clerk			
46 years	25 years Housewife			50 years Boot Operative			
23 years Labourer				20 years Air. Fitter			
23 years Aircraft							
60 years Clerk							
20 years Air. Fitter							
50 years Boot Operative							
22 years Aircraft							
21 years Engineer							
36 years Labourer							
55 years Licensed Victualler							
(14)	(5)	(4)	(2)	(7)	(1)	(1)	(1)

Year 1943

NEW CASES				DEATHS			
RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
31 years Labourer	37 years Housewife	10 years Scholar (Cervical Glands)	8 years Scholar (Neck Glands)	37 years Motor Body Work	25 years Printer's Assistant	3 years Infant	19 years Clerk (Neck Glands)
46 years Clerk	24 years Housewife			47 years Cinema Attendant	42 years Housewife		
25 years Ex-Army	20 years Munitions			23 years Engineer	23 years Cashier		
51 years —	19 years W.R.N.S.			46 years Clerk	28 years Housewife		
40 years Miner	17 years —			50 years Tailor's Cutter	31 years Clerk		
45 years Aircraft	25 years —				31 years Housewife		
47 years Munitions							
29 years Aircraft							
35 years Aircraft							
32 years Tool Setter							
29 years —							
35 years Munitions							
42 years —							
(13)	(6)	(1)	(1)	(5)	(6)	(1)	(1)

### VIII.—CONCLUSION

It will be observed that the district has maintained an excellent standard of health in spite of the physical and mental strain occasioned by war-time conditions. In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council for their continued courtesy and consideration. I would also take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the active and energetic co-operation and assistance of the Senior Health Inspector and the Public Health Staff.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MENZIES CORMACK,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*November, 1944.*

# Report

of the

Senior Health Inspector on the Sanitary Circumstances  
of the Kingswood Urban Area for the years  
1939 to 1943

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*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Kingswood Urban District Council*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present this Report covering the years 1939 to 1943 (Seventh to Eleventh Annual Reports). The Council will realise that the interruption of normal duties due to circumstances arising from the War has been responsible for the absence of the normal Annual Reports, but every endeavour has been made in these pages to summarise the public health work undertaken during the past five years. The Report also includes an Appendix which gives an account of air raids on the district during the winter of 1940/41.

## 1. Water Supply

The water supply of the area has continued to receive attention from time to time. Four samples were taken from private wells and, in all cases, the water was found to be polluted. In 1939 steps were being taken to secure improvement to the water supply in Brook Road area, but owing to the emergency, further consideration was postponed.

The following is a copy of a certificate received from the West Gloucestershire Water Company in regard to Shipton Moyne supply :

Analysis of sample of Shipton Moyne chlorinated water :

Appearance—Bright : very slight deposit of Iron Oxide

Colour—Normal ; Odour—Nil.

Reaction, pH—Neutral : 7·3 ; Acidity as CO<sub>2</sub> : 1·7.

Electric conductivity at 20°C. : 620

Alkalinity as CaCO<sub>3</sub> : 24·5.



*Results expressed in parts per 100,000*

Ca	Mg	Na	CO <sub>3</sub>	SO <sub>4</sub>	Cl	NO <sub>3</sub>	SiO <sub>2</sub>	Probable Combinations		
7.8	0.7	(6.4)	14.7	4.8	4.8	abs.	1.4			
7.8	—	—	11.7	—	—	—	—	Calcium Carbonate ..		19.5
—	0.7	—	1.7	—	—	—	—	Magnesium Carbonate ..		2.4
—	—	1.0	1.3	—	—	—	—	Sodium Carbonate ..		2.3
—	—	2.3	—	4.8	—	—	—	Sodium Sulphate ..		7.1
—	—	3.1	—	—	4.8	—	—	Sodium Chloride ..		7.9
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.4	Silica .. ..		1.4
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Difference .. ..		0.4
Total solid constituents dried at 180°C. ..										41.0

Hardness—Permanent, 0.0 ; Temporary, 22.5 ; Total, 22.5.

Free ammonia—0.0160=Ammoniacal Nitrogen—0.0131.

Albuminoid Ammonia—0.0000=Albuminoid Nitrogen—0.0000

Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.—0.005.

Nitrogen in Nitrates—0.00 ; Nitrogen in Nitrites—Less than 0.001.

Metals—Iron : Total, 0.03 ; in solution, 0.005. Other metals absent.

NOTE.—To convert the above parts per 100,000 into grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

“ Free chlorine reaction ”—0.07 part per million.

Fluorine—0.3 part per million.

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Bacteriological sample dechlorinated on collection

No. of Colonies per c.c. or ml. :

On Agar at 37°C. in : 1 day .. .. 1

2 days .. .. 1

On Agar at 20°C. in : 3 days.. .. 3

Bact. Coli .. .. Absent 100 c.c.

Cl. welchii .. .. Absent 100 c.c.

## 2. Drainage and Sewerage

The Kingswood and Warmley Joint Sewerage Scheme was in full operation by the beginning of 1939 ; the Works being officially opened on the 31st March, 1939, by the Rt. Hon. Walter Elliott, M.C., M.P., Minister of Health. My Report for 1938 contained notes on the main intercepting sewer and the Sewage Works at Conham (kindly supplied by the Joint Engineers, Messrs. W. H. Knee and G. Fletcher). The main trunk sewer, 5½ miles in length, connects with sewers from parts of the Warmley Rural Area and the main Kingswood district which gravitate to the old Kingswood Sewage Works. The southern portion of the

Kingswood and Hanham sewers (*i.e.* those which gravitate to the southern end of the district) connect with the trunk sewer near the site of the old Conham Works. The existing Works at Warmley and Conham were closed down when the new Works were opened—a move that was long overdue. The Sewage Works, which are under the control of the Kingswood and Warmley Joint Sewerage Committee, have operated satisfactorily; certain adjustments to the sedimentation tanks being carried out soon after the Works opened. During the summer of 1939 complaints of nuisance at the Works were investigated and found to arise from sludge deposited near the drying beds. Arrangements were made by the Engineers for the regular removal of the sludge and the nuisance ceased. Enquiries were made into the reasons why the sludge was not being properly digested in the digestion tanks, and it was subsequently revealed that injurious chemical wastes from a local engineering works were being discharged into the Council's sewers, with deleterious results at the Works. The firm's attention was drawn to the matter but, as the nuisance recurred during the summer of 1940, the Council took immediate action by requiring them to neutralise all injurious wastes before discharge into the sewers. This matter has continued to receive close attention.

Owing to war conditions, no sewer extensions have been made. Derrick Road scheme was under consideration in 1939, and tenders were invited, but subsequently the Council was compelled to postpone the scheme in favour of more urgent work on the construction of air-raid shelters, etc. Flooding still occurs during stormy weather in the low-lying parts of the district owing to the surcharging of the storm sewers. This is a problem which will have to be considered when post-war improvements are contemplated.

### 3. Rivers and Streams

The River Avon runs along the County-City boundaries at Conham, and the Warmley Brook forms part of the Eastern boundary between the Urban District and the Warmley Rural District. One complaint of pollution of this brook was investigated and dealt with.

### 4. Closet Accommodation

The majority of the houses in the district are on the water carriage system, but the absence of flushing arrangements is noted in a considerable number of the older dwellings. The war has prevented much improvement in this connection.

### 5. Public Cleansing and Salvage

The policy of the Council adopted in July, 1938, requiring occupiers of premises to provide suitable dustbins for house refuse was proceeded with up to the early days of the war, when the



work had to be suspended. By that time 835 occupiers had substituted proper dustbins for the insanitary receptacles hitherto in use. The routine work involved in securing compliance with notices or providing receptacles in default was cumbersome. Informal notices were sent and, if not complied with, report was made to the Health Committee and statutory notices served. On default by occupiers dustbins were supplied and accounts rendered. The cost involved in recovering expenses proved to be more than the value of the dustbins, and in a number of cases, occupiers not only never paid for dustbins supplied, but on leaving the district took the bins with them; The local authority has power, under the Public Health Act, to adopt an alternative method of securing provision of dustbins. They may, themselves, undertake to provide and maintain bins, and make an annual charge not exceeding 2s. 6d. for each one supplied. To implement the scheme it would be necessary to incur initial expenditure in providing dustbins and to fix the annual charge to be recovered. When more normal conditions prevail, the Council might be prepared to consider this alternative procedure.

The Council's salvage scheme was organised in August, 1940. Paper was the first waste material collected, sacks being left at premises and picked up when full. By the use of trailers with the lorries, extra haulage charges were avoided. Later, scrap metal, textiles, bones, rubber and other sundry materials were brought into the regular collection service. Local and County Salvage Drives have produced excellent results, and the help of the W.V.S. and School Salvage Stewards has been of great value in maintaining collections. By arrangement with the Bristol Corporation, kitchen waste collection was commenced in April, 1941, the Corporation providing all receptacles and transport, and receiving the waste. The following table shows the quantity of salvage collected from August, 1940, to December, 1943 :

				Tons	Cwts.
Paper	..	..	..	604	7
Scrap Metal	..	..	..	214	10*
Textiles	..	..	..	33	4
Bones	..	..	..	24	0
Jars	..	..	..	18	2†
Kitchen Waste	..	..	..	765	0
Rubber	..	..	..	4	13

The estimated weight of railings requisitioned by the Ministry of Supply and removed from Kingswood and Hanham during 1943 was 196 tons. Metal reclaimed during 1942 by removal of the tram lines lying in the Kingswood and Hanham main roads was 264 tons.

\* Does not include weight of requisitioned railings, nor weight of tram tracks removed from Kingswood and Hanham.

† Equivalent to 308 gross.

The refuse collection and salvage service was placed under the control of the Health Department in August, 1940, and some reorganisation was necessary to deal with the salvage scheme. The district is covered by one full-time collection team, consisting of a driver and three loaders operating on twenty-seven routes, and one part-time team on eight routes. Two covered Karrier Bantam vehicles are in use ; one with a detachable cover which enables it to be used for salvage work on four days a week. Karrier No. 1 (cleansing lorry) has been in use since 18th September, 1940, and Karrier No. 2 (cleansing and salvage) since 5th February, 1942.

During 1941 a valuable tipping site was acquired at Mount Hill by the purchase of the southern portion of Messrs. Bridges' quarry. The quarry, which varies in depth from 25 ft. to 50 ft., has covering material available, and will serve the present needs of the district for a number of years. A roadway was cut into the side of the quarry near the adjacent school playing-field to enable the refuse to be layered and controlled. Tipping commenced on the 11th May, 1942, and the site has since been used during the summer months. Disposal is carried out in accordance with the Ministry of Health tipping rules. The tip at Church Road, Kingswood, was almost worked out by the end of 1943. Final layering is proceeding, refuse being tipped on the site during the winter months only. Conham tip has not been used by the Council since August, 1940. It was not capable of being controlled and, as many complaints of nuisance were received, it was thought advisable to close it.

Costs of the public cleansing and salvage services for the financial years 1st April, 1939, to 31st March, 1944, were as follows :—

Financial Year    Cleansing Service		Salvage Service	
		Expenditure	Income
1939-40	£ 1,286	£ 26	£ 16
1940-41	1,095	945	793
1941-42	1,273	767	1,001
1942-43	2,053	1,349	1,560
1943-44	1,885	1,177	1,450

Figures for the years 1942/43/44 include costs incurred in purchasing and adapting a new tipping site at Mount Hill. The analysed expenditure on these services will be found in the Abstract of Accounts prepared by the Chief Financial Officer.

## 6. Sanitary Inspections

Sanitary inspections have been maintained, despite war-time difficulties, and the appended tables give an indication of inspections carried out and defective conditions remedied.

### *Summary of Visits, including Re-visits*

Accumulations	..	..	..	..	..	134
Animals kept	..	..	..	..	..	61
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	297
Cesspools	..	..	..	..	..	10
Closets—W.C.	..	..	..	..	..	93
Cleansing and Salvage	..	..	..	..	..	1,074
Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	..	218
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	153
Drainage—houses	..	..	..	..	..	528
Dustbins	..	..	..	..	..	709
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	382
Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	660
Fumigations—after Infectious Disease	..	..	..	..	..	200
for vermin	..	..	..	..	..	25
Houses dirty or verminous	..	..	..	..	..	89
Houses under Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	512
Housing visits	..	..	..	..	..	364
Infectious Disease	..	..	..	..	..	308
Interviews on District	..	..	..	..	..	546
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	36
Milk Samples taken	..	..	..	..	..	500
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	538
Mortuary and Conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	267
Other premises under Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	11
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	33
Petroleum Act	..	..	..	..	..	17
Rats and Mice	..	..	..	..	..	143
Scabies Order	..	..	..	..	..	134
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	146
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	30
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	1,333
Smoke Observations	..	..	..	..	..	111
Sewers	..	..	..	..	..	43
Van Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	163
Water Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	37
Water Samples	..	..	..	..	..	15

NO. OF NOTICES SERVED				DEFECTIVE CONDITIONS		
Informal		Formal		Nature of Defect	Remedied by Informal Action	Remedied by Statutory Action
Served	Complied	Served	Complied			
33	33	—	—	Accumulation .. ..	33	—
13	13	—	—	Animals kept .. ..	13	—
2	3	—	—	Camping sites unlicensed (Vans) .. ..	3	—
5	4	—	—	Cesspools : Defective or overflowing .. ..	4	—
6	6	—	—	Cowsheds and Dairies .. ..	6	—
1	1	—	—	Drainage : Absence of .. ..	1	—
145	145	1	1	Chokages .. ..	145	1
62	34	2	2	Defective .. ..	34	2
2	2	—	—	Overcrowding .. ..	2	—
154	116	4	4	Premises : Defective .. ..	116	4
21	18	—	—	Dirty .. ..	18	—
15	13	—	—	Verminous .. ..	13	—
4	1	—	—	Rat Infestation .. ..	1	—
4	5	—	—	Schools .. ..	5	—
29	15	—	—	Sinks : Absence of or defective .. ..	15	—
11	11	—	—	Slaughterhouse defects .. ..	1	—
2	2	—	—	Smoke Nuisance .. ..	2	—
9	8	—	—	Water supply : Absence of .. ..	8	—
46	34	—	—	W.C.'s : Defective or insufficient .. ..	34	—

## 7. Shops and Offices

Inspections of these have been made and any necessary action taken.

## 8. Camping Sites

The following particulars are given in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health :

Number of sites in the area used for camping purposes 1939-43	.. .. .	2
Number of sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the local authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936	..	1
Estimated number of campers resident in the area at one time	.. .. .	2

It will be noted that one licence to station and use a moveable dwelling on land in the area was granted by the Council. In the other case a licence was refused owing to unsatisfactory conditions. The particular site is a troublesome one as the campers come and go at frequent intervals. The site is kept under observation and action taken immediately campers move in.

## 9. Smoke Abatement

On the 20th June, 1940, the Ministry of Home Security sent a circular to local authorities on the desirability (for security reasons) of permitting production of extra smoke from industrial works. The circular had only a limited application so far as this area was concerned, but as a result no steps were taken in regard to smoke abatement. This was a retrogressive step, but a necessary one in the national interests. In September, 1943, a further circular was received from the Ministry of Home Security cancelling the above arrangements. There is very little trouble from industrial smoke, but the burning of leather is still an objectionable practice, not only in factories but also in private dwellings. The present shortage of fuel makes it difficult to take effective action, but any complaints are investigated and the nuisance mitigated so far as possible. The war has interfered with the work of the Bristol and District Regional Smoke Abatement Council, which was set up in 1938 to deal with problems of smoke abatement. It is to be hoped that the post-war years will see much useful work accomplished by the Committee.

## 10. Swimming Bath

There is one privately-owned swimming pool in the area which is used during the summer months. Water for the swimming bath is drawn from the old Warmley Level and an examination of this water showed that it was satisfactory for a swimming bath water.



### 11. Verminous Premises

From time to time it is necessary to take steps to eradicate bed bugs and other vermin from dwellings. Figures for the years 1939-43 are :

Number of Council houses infested .. ..	2
Number of Council houses disinfested .. ..	2
Number of privately-owned dwellings infested	14
Number of privately-owned dwellings disinfested	14

The methods taken to destroy the vermin were fully described in my Report for 1938.

### 12. Schools

School premises have been inspected and the sanitary arrangements reviewed. Any matters requiring attention have been referred to the local Education Secretary. All schools are supplied with water from public supply.

### 13. Factories Act 1937

The following table shows the nature of the work carried out under the Factories Act 1937 :

#### 1. *Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health*

Premises	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	382	106	—
Factories without mechanical power .. .. .	5	—	—
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) .. .. .	—	—	—
	387	106	—



## 2. Defects Found

Particulars	Number of defects			Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness.. .. .	60	60	—	—
Overcrowding .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :				
Insufficient .. .. .	5	5	—	—
Unsuitable or defective .. .. .	22	22	—	—
Not separate for sexes .. .. .	1	1	—	—
Other Offences (not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1929, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act 1937) .. .. .	—	—	—	—

## 14. Housing

In 1939 it was not considered advisable to proceed further with action in regard to unfit property in view of the international situation, and efforts in this direction were concentrated on clearing up the work already in hand. The Woodstock Housing site having been completed at the end of 1938, it was possible to rehouse a considerable number of persons from unfit dwellings which had been included in Housing Confirmation Orders made in 1938 and earlier. When the lettings of these houses were completed there were very few families remaining to be dealt with. Shortly after hostilities commenced, the Ministry of Health advised the Council (circular No. 1866/1939) that any further action taken under the Housing Acts should stop short of demolition and, as a result, no further action was taken to secure demolition of dwellings from which persons had been rehoused or displaced. Some of these dwellings have since been occupied on temporary licences issued by the Council under the Defence Regulations. Others have become ruinous.

The following figures summarise the work carried out under the Housing Acts during the years 1934-39 :

### (a) Clearance Order Procedure :

Number of houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders .. .. .	139
Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Clearance Orders .. .. .	99

Number of houses void but not marked off as demolished in the Housing Registers .. ..	25
Number of houses still occupied (including 6 on temporary licences) .. .. .	15

(b) *Demolition Order Procedure :*

Number of houses dealt with as individually unfit	82
Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	63
Number of dwellings made fit or put out of use on Undertaking .. .. .	14
Number of houses void .. .. .	2
Action suspended .. .. .	3

(c) *Rehousing :*

Number of houses provided under Housing Acts 1930-36 :

2BR .. .. .	42
3BR .. .. .	76
4BR .. .. .	12

These houses represent a total accommodation of 644, calculated in accordance with Section 105 of the Housing Act 1936.

Total number of persons displaced from unfit dwellings .. .. .	639
Total number of persons rehoused by the Council	479
Number of displacements ranking for subsidy ..	625*

(d) *Overcrowding*

The records in regard to overcrowding in the district, which were maintained in an up-to-date condition up to 1939, are now obsolete by reason of effluxion of time and the changes in occupation brought about by war conditions. The dearth of housing accommodation has prevented to a large extent the taking of action in cases of overcrowding under Part IV of the Housing Act 1936. While having no information on which to base a true assessment of the present housing needs of the area, it is apparent from the number of applications received for Council houses, and from complaints of unsatisfactory living conditions, that there will be a considerable leeway to be made up in the immediate post-war years. The problem of finding new homes for all who need them will be one of the most difficult to be faced. It should be recorded that in 1943 the Council had already begun negotiations to purchase several large parcels of land as a first step to post-war housing needs.

\* Final total agreed by District Auditor.

## 15. Inspection and Supervision of Food

### (a) *Milk Supply*

Inspections of cowsheds and dairies under the Milk and Dairies Order have been maintained, although in the early days of the War there was inevitably some interference owing to the amount of emergency work requiring attention. This is also reflected in the number of milk samples taken for analyses under the Gloucestershire County Council scheme. During 1943 a producer/retailer was formally brought before the Health Committee to show cause why his name should not be removed from the register of Retail Purveyors of Milk owing to his failure to maintain a reasonable standard of cleanliness at his premises, and failure to comply with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order in his methods of production. His case was considered and deferred for him to make efforts to improve the quality of his milk supply, and at the end of the year the case was still under consideration.

#### *Sampling :*

1939	..	..	..	52
1940	..	..	..	31
1941	..	..	..	21
1942	..	..	..	24
				<hr/>
				128
				<hr/>

On the whole the results bear reasonable comparison to those reported upon in previous Annual Reports.

Early in 1943 the Department was asked by the Agricultural Advisory Officer of the Bristol University to undertake experimental sampling of producer/retailers and small dairymen under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. Sampling was commenced in March, 1943, and by the end of the year, 372 samples were taken. Fifty-four of these did not conform to a reasonable standard of cleanliness. For the time being, this Scheme largely superseded the County Sampling Scheme as, with few exceptions, it was unnecessary to take duplicate samples.

In July, 1943, a Government White Paper announced two important measures to secure improvement in the quality of the nation's milk supply. It announced the intention of the Government to transfer the functions of local authorities, relating to conditions under which milk is produced, to the Ministry of Agriculture. (At the end of the year, legislation on this contentious issue was pending, and was subsequently passed through Parliament in 1944.) The Paper also recorded the Government's intention to institute a Heat Treatment Scheme for all milk sold in areas where a Wartime Rationalisation Scheme was in force. The Kingswood Dairy Trade is linked with the Bristol Dairymen's Wartime Association, and would therefore come within the purview of the scheme. Briefly, the scheme will require that, on

and after a date to be prescribed, no milk may be sold by retail unless it is heat treated or sold as one of the designated milks. At the end of 1943 such a scheme was in course of preparation.

*(b) Meat and Food Inspection*

The inspection of meat in private slaughter-houses throughout the district was fully maintained throughout the year 1939 and the early part of 1940, and tabulated statements which follow show the amount of meat inspected and condemnations resulting from inspections. Early in 1940 all slaughtering of livestock was brought under the control of the Ministry of Food in Government controlled slaughter-houses. Unsuccessful representations were made for the siting of a Government slaughter-house in the locality, and as a consequence, routine meat inspection at time of slaughter ceased. Visits have been maintained in food premises, and quantities of meat, canned produce and other foodstuffs have been inspected and dealt with. Relationship with the Food Trades is well maintained, and traders do not hesitate to seek the advice of the Food Inspector whenever necessary. No occasion has arisen to exercise formal powers of seizure.

The Food and Drugs Act came into force on the 1st October, 1939. In the main, the Act consolidates, amends, and in some respects simplifies, the law as related to food. Important duties are specified in connection with registration of food premises, notification of cases of food poisoning, powers to deal with unsound food, the making of new Milk and Dairies Regulations, etc. Another important and long overdue provision is in regard to private slaughter-houses. The old "registered" slaughter-house has disappeared, and no premises may now be used unless a licence is in force. Owing to the war, the Council have not been called upon to consider this matter, but important decisions will have to be made, when Government control ceases, as to the continuance or otherwise of some of the older premises. One of the suggestions put forward by the Council's Post-War Reconstruction Committee was that consideration should be given to the provision of a public abattoir. In making this point, it is interesting to quote from an Annual Report of a predecessor in office (Mr. A. H. Brain), who, in his Report for the year 1910, states :

" I have already advocated the necessity of a public abattoir for this district, and again beg to remind you that up to the present nothing has been done in this respect. The great drawbacks with our present mode of slaughtering are apparent to most of the inhabitants of this district, knowing as you must, that exacting supervision cannot be kept over all the carcasses of meat offered for sale within the district. . . . I again wish to point out that many of the nuisances caused by private slaughter-houses within this district might, with advantage to all, be permanently abated by the establishment of a public abattoir."



*Condemnations, 1939*

Description	Beasts	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Total
Carcases and Organs ..	6	5	8	2	21
Part Carcases .. ..	5	—	1	—	6
Heads (including Tongues)	73	—	79	—	152
Lungs .. .. .	65	—	150	—	215
Hearts .. .. .	—	—	5	—	5
Livers .. .. .	46	4	20	—	70
Pluck .. .. .	—	—	41	—	41
Mesenteries .. ..	6	—	20	—	26
Kidneys .. .. .	—	—	1	—	1
Stomach .. .. .	2	—	15	—	17
Intestines .. .. .	—	—	11	—	11

*Causes of Condemnations, 1939*

Disease or Condition	Beasts	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Total
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Tuberculosis .. ..	8,704	—	1,256	—	9,960
Pneumonia .. .. .	—	—	341	—	341
Immaturity .. .. .	—	—	—	230	230
Abscesses .. .. .	138	—	26	—	164
Gangrene .. .. .	—	—	140	—	140
Distoma .. .. .	112	13	—	—	125
Laceration and Multiple Injury .. .. .	—	100	—	—	100
Actinomycosis .. ..	30	—	60	—	90
Cirrhosis .. .. .	64	—	20	—	84
Inflammation .. ..	—	—	82	—	82
Swine Erysipelas ..	—	—	70	—	70
Angioma .. .. .	64	—	—	—	64
Swine Fever .. .. .	—	—	60	—	60
Fevered .. .. .	—	—	50	—	50
Adhesions .. .. .	—	—	32	—	32
Bacterial Necrosis ..	16	—	—	—	16
Pericarditis .. .. .	—	—	6	—	6
TOTALS .. .. .	9,128	113	2,143	230	11,614

*Meat and Other Foods, 1939-43*

Bacon	..	..	..	7 lbs.
Biscuits	..	..	..	7 "
Butter	..	..	..	56 "
Cake ..	..	..	..	18 "
Canned Fish	..	..	..	38 tins
Canned Fruit	..	..	..	75 "
Canned Meat	..	..	..	724 "
Canned Vegetables	..	..	..	89 "
Canned Beans	..	..	..	864 "
Condensed Milk	..	..	..	279 "
Cheese	..	..	..	374 lbs.
Dried Fruit	..	..	..	4 "
Eggs ..	..	..	..	178 doz.
Fresh Fish	..	..	..	84 lbs.
Flour ..	..	..	..	127 "
Jam ..	..	..	..	21 "
Lard ..	..	..	..	4 "
Lentils	..	..	..	24 "
Liver ..	..	..	..	40 "
Meat ..	..	..	..	190 "
Onions	..	..	..	88 "
Pork Pies	..	..	..	5 "
Rice ..	..	..	..	14 lbs.
Soup ..	..	..	..	205 tins

**16. Slaughter of Animals Act 1933**

Sixty-six licences to slaughter animals have been renewed during the period. There has been a marked decrease in the number of licences issued owing to the cessation of slaughtering, licences only being held by permanent slaughtermen working under the control of the Ministry of Food.

**17. Mortuary and Conveniences**

During the five years under review the mortuary has been used on thirty-seven occasions, and the following is a record of the admissions :



Date	Sex	Age	Address	Post mortem held	Cause of death
1939					
1st Feb.	M.	70 years	Kingswood	Yes	Broncho-pneumonia
27th Mar.	F.	72 years	Kingswood	Yes	Thrombosis
16th April	M.	—	—	Yes	Drowning
18th April	M.	66 years	Kingswood	Yes	Coronary Thrombosis
28th Aug.	M.	68 years	Kingswood	No	Heart Failure
2nd Nov.	F.	70 years	Syston Common	No	Multiple injuries. Road casualty
26th Nov.	F.	58 years	Warmley	Yes	Heart Failure
10th Dec.	M.	69 years	Kingswood	No	Coal-gas poisoning
21st Dec.	M.	Few min.	Unknown	Yes	Strangulation. Wilful murder
27th Dec.	M.	69 years	Kingswood	Yes	Heart Failure
1940					
2nd Jan.	F.	27 years	Kingswood	Yes	Coal-gas poisoning. Accidental
25th Jan.	M.	63 years	Hanham	Yes	Pulmonary congestion. Pericarditis
21st Mar.	M.	17 years	Kingswood	Yes	Shock due to inhalation of water while in a state of syncope
9th Aug.	M.	10 weeks	Kingswood	Yes	Pneumonia
22nd Oct.	M.	31 years	Kingswood	Yes	Pneumonia
30th Nov.	F.	72 years	Kingswood	Yes	Heart Failure
6th Dec.	M.	16 years	Kingswood	No	Air raid casualty
17th Dec.	M.	4 months	Kingswood	Yes	Broncho-pneumonia
1941					
14th Jan.	M.	58 years	Hanham	Yes	Road casualty
22nd Jan.	F.	67 years	Hanham	Yes	Broncho-pneumonia
27th Jan.	M.	62 years	Kingswood	Yes	Heart Failure
20th Feb.	M.	19 days	Kingswood	No	Deformity
17th Mar.	F.	83 years	Kingswood	No	Air raid casualty
17th Mar.	F.	56 years	Kingswood	No	Air raid casualty
15th May	M.	73 years	Kingswood	Yes	Heart Disease
22nd June	F.	64 years	Kingswood	Yes	Arterio-sclerosis
30th Aug.	F.	29 years	Kingswood	Yes	Heart Failure
30th Sept.	M.	57 years	Kingswood	Yes	Coronary Thrombosis
22nd Dec.	F.	41 years	Hanham	Yes	Cerebral Haemorrhage
1942					
6th Feb.	F.	73 years	Kingswood	Yes	Asphyxia caused by fire
6th Feb.	F.	10 years	Kingswood	Yes	Asphyxia caused by fire
6th Aug.	M.	68 years	Hanham	Yes	Coronary Thrombosis
8th Dec.	M.	3 months	Kingswood	Yes	Broncho-pneumonia
1943					
7th Jan.	F.	73 years	Hanham	Yes	Heart Failure
15th Mar.	M.	46 years	Kingswood	Yes	Coronary Thrombosis
27th June	M.	50 years	Kingswood	Yes	Heart Failure
30th Aug.	M.	34 years	Kingswood	Yes	Cerebral Haemorrhage
27th Sept.	F.	75 years	Kingswood	Yes	Cerebral Haemorrhage
26th Dec.	F.	7 weeks	Kingswood	Yes	Malnutrition

The sum of £321 was collected from the Council's public conveniences.

#### 18. Petroleum (Consolidation) Act 1928

Licences issued under this Act are as follows :

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Petrol .. .. .	35	35	34	32	26
Carbide .. .. .	1	1	1	1	1
Total .. .. .	36	36	35	33	27

#### 19. Rats and Mice Destruction

In 1943, the Minister of Food " directed " the Council to carry out a survey of rat infested premises in the area. Although the Council was not then the authority under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919, the survey was put in hand and a report subsequently sent to the Divisional Office of the Ministry of Food. The Council were asked by the Ministry to accept further responsibilities in regard to rat destruction, but as this could only be legally enforced by the use of delegated powers, the matter was left for further consideration. Further developments on this matter will be discussed in a future report.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEO. E. CURTIS,

*Senior Health Inspector.*

*November, 1944.*

*They also serve . . .*

An Account  
*of the*  
Air Raids on Kingswood  
During the Winter of  
1940 - 41

by  
GEO. E. CURTIS  
(A.R.P.S., FALFIELD)  
Hon. Fireguard Officer to the  
Kingswood Urban District Council

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## FOREWORD

*by*

COUNCILLOR THOMAS BURNHAM, J.P., C.C.

*Chairman of the  
Kingswood Urban District Council*

A casual visitor to Kingswood, walking through its quiet suburban streets, would find little to suggest that here was a Community which had been in the front line of the Home Battle Front.

Four years have passed since the pent-up fury of the enemy was loosened upon us. Damage to property caused by the raids was heavy : our casualties were mercifully light.

The assiduous labours of the builders have restored the homes of the people ; the wreckage of devastated buildings has long since been removed. Only the scars are still with us.

It remained for an account to be written of the raids over the Bristol district, insofar as they affected our Urban Community. That has now been done, and it is briefly told in the following pages, by one who had a first-hand knowledge of the events during the winter of 1940/41.

*December, 1944.*

THOMAS BURNHAM.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Grateful acknowledgment is made to Alderman T. H. J. Underdown, M.A., J.P., Lord Mayor of Bristol, 1940/41, for permission to reproduce an extract from his book *Bristol under Blitz*; also to W. C. Bowler, Esq., Sub-Controller, Area 11, County of Gloucester, for access to official records at Control H.Q.

G. E. C.

## INTRODUCTION

In July, 1942, Alderman T. H. J. Underdown, M.A., J.P., Lord Mayor of Bristol, 1940-41, published a book : *Bristol Under Blitz*, the record of an ancient City and her people during the Battle of Britain, 1940-41.

The book is a stirring document : an imperishable record of the way in which the citizens stood up to all that Nazi " Kultur " could do to destroy it. Although Alderman Underdown's narrative is confined to events which took place within the City boundaries, it is common knowledge that the smaller self-governing districts, which lie immediately contiguous to the Ancient City, shared to some extent the trials which the citizens of Bristol were called upon to bear.

The Urban District of Kingswood was one of those areas, and its inhabitants faced the ordeal with the same courage and fortitude shown by the citizens of its big neighbour.

This brief account places on record the air raid damage sustained in this area as a result of the intensive enemy air attacks which were made on the Bristol district, and which are more fully described in Alderman Underdown's book.

The first " Alert," giving warning of the presence of enemy aircraft over the locality, was sounded on 24th June, 1940, and many more were to be heard—by night and day—before the enemy's venomous attack first fell upon the district.

## SUNDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER, 1940

It was on the night of Sunday, 24th November, 1940, that the first heavy raid occurred. Alderman Underdown gives a graphic description of the scene. He writes :

" The 24th was a typical November day of dull leaden skies with a light mist towards sunset. As darkness fell, the alert was given and by 6.30 the skies over the centre of the City were brightly lit by flares dropped from enemy planes. Then the fiery attack was let loose with utter ruthlessness. . . . "

This was typical of the Kingswood scene. Cascades of incendiaries fell over a wide area of the district, lighting up the roads and buildings with a strange and unnatural brilliance. The main Bristol-London road passing through Kingswood was affected, and a large number fell in the vicinity of Holy Trinity Church, but without penetrating the Church itself. One courageous but misguided individual poured a bucket of water over a bomb burning on a tombstone. (He received his first practical lesson on how *not* to tackle an I.B.) Other buildings were not so fortunate : the Whitfield Tabernacle, Hanham Road Congregational Church, Council Offices, and a considerable



number of dwellings in the Hanham Road, Court Road, Hopps Road and Lower Hanham Road areas receiving direct hits. It is worthy of record that no *serious* fire resulted, the incendiaries and incipient fires being dealt with by Fire Watchers and residents.

A large engineering works received direct hits by incendiaries and H.E. bombs; a major fire resulting which destroyed a portion of the works. A modern and well-equipped boot and shoe factory in the heart of Kingswood was set alight (it is believed by an oil bomb) and gutted. At both these incidents, the Fire Service tackled the fires valiantly, and in one instance, succeeded in confining it.

H.E. bombs dropped at intervals in Britannia Road, Kingswood main road, Bank Road, Hanham Road, and in the extreme south of the district at Conham, destroying or damaging many buildings and houses. Most of the Kingswood churches had their windows blown out and suffered other damage.

The most serious devastation occurred when a paramine fell at the rear of houses in Hanham Road, opposite the Kingswood Nurses Home, causing widespread damage and rendering many people homeless.

Altogether some 500 dwellings were more or less seriously damaged, a number of them being totally destroyed, including an annexe to the Nurses Home. Many more dwellings not actually damaged by bomb blast were de-serviced by the disruption of the public utility undertakings.

This was the first testing-time of the Civil Defence Services, and they came through the ordeal with honour—Control H.Q., Wardens, Rescue and Casualty Services alike. A tremendous number of calls were put through to Control at Warmley and expeditiously dealt with. The saving grace of humour was apparent, even in the midst of battle. One Warden, reporting an I.B. incident said: "I.B.'s dropped in High Street, Kingswood. Have put out one with my foot."

When the worst effects of the raid had subsided, emergency shelter and feeding arrangements came into operation, and the homeless people were accommodated at the Rest Centres which had been provided for the purpose. All concerned worked with a will to alleviate the distress of those whose homes had been blitzed. In the blackout, it was next to impossible to estimate the extent of the damage, but with the growing light of grey dawn, the grim picture was revealed. War had indeed come to Kingswood. In place of the peaceful homes there were gaping roofs, torn walls and shattered windows: here and there heaps of rubble where houses had stood only a few hours before. Casualties had occurred, but it was unbelievable that not a single life had been lost, although one learned afterwards of many narrow escapes.

Work was soon commenced on clearing debris from the roads and assessing the damage. Strong reinforcements of helpers were drafted from other parts of the County to render assistance, and all available building operatives engaged to carry out temporary repairs to roofs and windows.

#### MONDAY, 2ND DECEMBER, 1940

The next sharp enemy attack took place on Monday, 2nd December. Flares were dropped over Kingswood and Hanham district, but although a number of reports of UXB were received at Control H.Q., no recorded explosions occurred in the area on this night. Many hundreds of incendiaries were released. These were tackled with courage and determination by the street fire watchers, wardens and others. Several fires required the attention of the Fire Service, but records show that only *one* dwelling—in the Courtney Road district—was completely destroyed.

#### FRIDAY, 6TH DECEMBER, 1940

Friday, 6th December, 1940, was another night which will remain in the memory of all those who lived through it; not so much on account of the number of bombs which fell in the immediate locality, but for the din of the anti-aircraft defences, which was simply terrific. The Nazi's tactics were patterned on their previous attacks—incendiaries to lighten the darkness, followed by high explosives.

Considerable devastation occurred when a paramine exploded at the rear of the Ambassador Cinema, making a direct hit on the eastern end of an underground shelter. Houses and buildings in the vicinity of Kimberley Street, Worcester Road, London Street, Gilbert Road, Regent Street, and Downend Road, were partially wrecked or severely damaged, and there were hundreds of roof and window casualties. It was estimated that between 400 and 500 houses were damaged in varying degrees, and some 200 people temporarily homeless as a result of this incident. The cinema was severely damaged and rendered unusable, and by taking the worst of the shock, undoubtedly saved a considerable number of shops in the main road from more extensive damage. Sixty people who were in the shelter when the paramine fell had miraculous escapes, all of them being at the other end of the shelter. They escaped with very bad shock. The eastern traverse of the shelter completely caved in, killing the occupants—three youths; one being dead on extrication, the other two dying shortly after removal. A fourth youth, whose life was despaired of, happily recovered. There were several hundred people in the cinema when the paramine fell. Had it fallen some 40 yards to the south, it would have made a direct hit on the cinema,

with results too ghastly to contemplate. Tragic as was the loss of three young lives, Kingswood was indeed fortunate.

Other H.E.'s fell during the raid in the Footshill, Cock Road, Gee Moors areas, and at other scattered points, but although injuries were caused, there were no other fatal casualties.

All the Civil Defence Services were quickly on the scenes of devastation and did fine work, while the homeless were cared for and fed in the Rest Centres. The post-raid Services, reinforced from County Control, were soon in action. Gangs of workmen laboured throughout the week-end clearing debris and salvaging furniture, while temporary repair work to the damaged houses proceeded with all speed.

#### SUNDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1941

It was not until the night of Sunday, 16th March, 1941, that Kingswood was called upon to bear further serious punishment. On this night, a rather heavy incendiary attack occurred, but although houses were set alight, not a single dwelling was completely consumed by fire. This fact pays silent tribute to the efforts of the street fire watchers, who dealt courageously with the demons of destruction which surrounded them.

It is believed that this was the first occasion on which explosive incendiaries were dropped in the locality; the bombs going off like "crackers." Some minor casualties occurred, one fire watcher suffering severe facial injury as a result of one of these bombs exploding while he was playing on it with a stirrup pump.

The most serious incident occurred in Downend Road, when an H.E. bomb exploded near Morley Terrace. Several houses were demolished and a considerable number damaged, but again, there were remarkable escapes, only two of a number of casualties being fatal—an old lady and her daughter being the victims. A reported UXB in a house in the locality was investigated. It was found that a paving stone had been blown from the Downend Road incident to the house—a distance of 60-70 yards—had fallen through the roof and upper floor, wrecking the place, and finally buried itself in the front room floor. Although the house was occupied no one was hurt.

Alderman Underdown, in his book, records that the first raid of 24th November was followed by twenty-nine raids of varying intensity until the final raid on the 5th July, 1941. The people of this district have every reason to remember them. Night after night, the "Alert" called them to keep vigil side by side with their City neighbours—and that vigil was faithfully kept.

Between 24th November, 1940, and 16th March, 1941, the "Alert" sounded on nearly one hundred occasions, many of them at night.

At one period of the winter, an "All Clear" night was an event to be talked about. Workers, tired after long days in factory or office, turned out, ready (as one street watcher put it) to "do their stuff." To what extent they played their part may be judged from the foregoing narrative. The writer can bear testimony to it. During raids, one saw the darkness suddenly cut by the intense glare of burning incendiaries. In a matter of minutes there would again be darkness . . . the people on "The Hill" had "dowted 'em."

Looking back on this winter of raids, one realises that Kingswood might have suffered far greater damage: certainly the loss of life could have been immeasurably greater. The Kingswood people shared the apprehension of thousands of Bristolians each time the sirens sounded. Only too often they were aware of the presence of enemy aircraft over the immediate locality and they knew that danger was very near. Nevertheless, Kingswood has every reason to be thankful that casualties and material damage were no greater than those recorded below.

Five civilians lost their lives in two of the raids. They died in the cause of Freedom on the civilian battle-front and were buried with the honours due to them. The Union Jack was their Pall and last respects were paid by representatives of the Civil Defence Services.

Twenty-one non-fatal casualties were detained in hospital; while upwards of fifty others received treatment as out-patients. Numerous other minor casualties, mainly shock and cuts, were treated by the Civil Defence Services. One hundred and seventy-six houses were either totally destroyed or so badly damaged as to require major reconstruction. Four factories were destroyed. One thousand three hundred and nine dwellings and other buildings suffered damage in varying degree. These figures represent almost one-third of the total number of dwellings in the Kingswood Urban District.

The greater part of the damage occurred in the closely built up centre of Kingswood, the area covered being less than a quarter of the total acreage of the district.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

KINGSWOOD, BRISTOL.

*December, 1944.*





